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LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Ulysses Williams, Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 44094

JANUARY 1984

RELEASE DATE:
February 23, 1984

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY JANUARY 1984				REVISED DECEMBER 1983				REVISED JANUARY 1983			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,888.6	1691.6	197.0	10.4	1,891.4	1,696.1	195.3	10.3	1,851.6	1,621.4	230.2	12.4
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	76.3	68.2	8.1	10.7	76.3	68.6	7.7	10.2	74.0	64.0	10.0	13.5
Baton Rouge 2/	240.2	220.6	19.6	8.2	242.6	222.1	20.5	8.4	229.8	206.3	23.5	10.2
Lafayette 3/	103.3	96.4	6.9	6.6	94.8	88.0	6.8	7.1	95.3	88.3	7.0	7.4
Lake Charles 4/	76.3	64.7	11.6	15.1	77.0	66.0	11.0	14.3	76.4	64.9	11.5	15.0
Monroe 5/	58.0	52.0	6.0	10.4	58.7	52.8	5.9	10.0	59.5	51.8	7.7	12.9
New Orleans 6/	527.0	480.0	47.0	8.9	528.8	480.8	48.0	9.1	516.4	461.4	55.0	10.7
Shreveport 7/	168.1	152.1	16.0	9.5	169.2	152.8	16.4	9.7	163.6	143.6	20.0	12.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during January amounted to 1,560,300, a decrease of 20,400 from the previous month but a gain of 9,500 over the comparable period a year ago. The state's nonmanufacturing industries, especially trade and government, contributed most to the lower employment level for the current month. Louisiana's manufacturing payrolls were down as a result of declines in both the durable and nondurable goods segment.

1/ Includes Avoyelles, Grant, & Rapides parishes. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Lafayette Parish only. 4/ Calcasieu Parish only. 5/ Ouachita Parish only. 6/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany parishes. 7/ Includes Bossier, Caddo, and Webster parishes.

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Monthly employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, at 77,700 for January, was 600 lower than the December level and 4,800 below January a year ago. A plant closure in the millwork, plywood and structural members segment of the lumber and wood products industry was the prime force in the lower employment for this industry. Stone, clay and glass products employment was lower this month due in large part to less business for the concrete, gypsum and plaster products segment. Fabricated metal products employment was down as cutbacks occurred in the production of metal cans and shipping containers and fabricated structural metal products. Machinery, except electrical, employment edged upward from December's level due mostly to increases in the manufacture of construction and related machinery and general industrial machinery. Transportation equipment payrolls slipped below last month's level due to less business for the state's shipyards. Miscellaneous manufacturing industries contributed to the upturn in other durable goods employment.

Estimated employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing for January amounted to 98,300, a decrease of 1,800 below last month's level and 1,900 lower than January of last year. Seasonal declines in the processing of sugar cane and in seafood canning were primary in the drop of food and kindred products payrolls. Cutbacks in paperboard mill payrolls contributed to the slight downturn in paper and allied products employment. Lessened demand for industrial inorganic and industrial organic chemicals accounted for the drop in chemicals and allied payrolls.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during January was 1,384,300, down by 18,000 from the December level. Mining employment was up as a result of an upturn in the exploration for oil and gas. A decline of activity in heavy construction and in certain special trades accounted for the decrease in construction payrolls. Transportation and public utilities experienced a decrease in employment levels as a result of less activity in trucking and warehousing and cutbacks in the telephone communication industry. As expected, cutbacks in retail trade payroll levels due to the ending of the holiday season were most significant in the downward turn of trade employment. Services employment in January dropped from the December level largely as a result of a decline in educational services employees. Reductions in state and local education employees were primary in the decrease of government employment.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 121,300 production workers in manufacturing increased from $402.12 in December to $417.31 in January, an increase of $15.19 and $25.90 higher than January of last year. Average hourly earnings were $0.20 more in January than last month and $0.51 more than December of last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.4 for the current month, up by 0.7 hours from December's figure.

Estimated total unemployment in Louisiana, at 197,000 for January, was up by 1,700 from December's level of 195,300. The state's unemployment rate for January was 10.4 percent compared to 10.3 percent last month and 12.4 percent in January of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for January was 8.8 percent compared to 8.0 percent in December and 11.4 percent in January a year ago. Louisiana's civilian labor force moved from 1,891,400 in December to 1,888,600 in January, a decrease of 2,800. Total employment for Louisiana went from 1,696,100 in December to 1,691,600 in January, a decrease of 4,500, but an increase of 70,200 above January of last year.

The state's unemployment rate should decline slightly in the next few months. Construction, mining and government should exhibit an upward trend in the upcoming month. Manufacturing employment is expected to fall slightly from present levels.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change from Dec. 1983	Net Change from Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	1,560.3	1,580.7	1,550.8	-20.4	+ 9.5
MINING AND QUARRYING	79.7	79.5	84.9	+ 0.2	- 5.2
Oil and Gas Extraction	76.5	76.3	81.7	+ 0.2	- 5.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	114.3	115.8	110.9	- 1.5	+ 3.4
MANUFACTURING	176.0	178.4	182.7	- 2.4	- 6.7
Durable Goods	77.7	78.3	82.5	- 0.6	- 4.8
Lumber and Wood Products	13.0	13.4	12.1	- 0.4	+ 0.9
Furniture and Fixtures	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.3	7.4	7.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Primary Metal Industries	3.4	3.4	4.3	0	- 0.9
Fabricated Metal Products	13.4	13.6	14.1	- 0.2	- 0.7
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.5	9.4	10.8	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Electric & Electronic Equipment	8.1	8.1	8.4	0	- 0.3
Transportation Equipment	20.1	20.2	22.7	- 0.1	- 2.6
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.2	2.1	2.2	+ 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	98.3	100.1	100.2	- 1.8	- 1.9
Food & Kindred Products	22.6	24.2	22.7	- 1.6	- 0.1
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.5	8.5	7.8	0	+ 0.7
Paper & Allied Products	11.6	11.7	11.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	9.8	9.8	9.6	0	+ 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	29.4	29.5	31.4	- 0.1	- 2.0
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.6	12.6	13.0	0	- 0.4
Petroleum Refining	11.9	12.0	12.2	- 0.1	- 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.8	3.8	3.9	0	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	113.1	115.6	120.3	- 2.5	- 7.2
Railroad Transportation	7.1	7.1	7.0	0	+ 0.1
Transportation, ex. Railroads	67.0	67.6	70.3	- 0.6	- 3.3
Communications & Public Utilities	39.0	40.9	43.0	- 1.9	- 4.0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	370.0	380.1	358.6	-10.1	+11.4
Wholesale Trade	95.2	95.6	94.7	- 0.4	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	274.8	284.5	263.9	- 9.7	+10.9
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	58.5	64.7	58.4	- 6.2	+ 0.1
Food Stores	50.5	50.6	49.5	- 0.1	+ 1.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	30.9	30.8	30.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Eating & Drinking Places	83.7	85.5	76.8	- 1.8	+ 6.9
Other Retail Trade	51.2	52.9	49.2	- 1.7	+ 2.0
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.4	83.4	80.4	0	+ 3.0
Banking	27.7	27.9	26.9	- 0.2	+ 0.8
SERVICES	307.2	307.9	299.5	- 0.7	+ 7.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.6	21.7	20.7	- 0.1	+ 0.9
Other Services	285.6	286.2	278.8	- 0.6	+ 6.8
GOVERNMENT	316.6	320.0	313.5	- 3.4	+ 3.1
Federal	34.4	34.3	33.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
State and Local	282.2	285.7	279.6	- 3.5	+ 2.6
State	99.6	102.5	100.8	- 2.9	- 1.2
Local	182.6	183.2	178.8	- 0.6	+ 3.8

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$417.31	$402.12	$391.41	41.4	40.7	40.9	$10.08	$9.88	$9.57
Durable Goods	364.61	364.51	370.12	40.2	40.1	41.4	9.07	9.09	8.94
Lumber & Wood Products	269.66	261.51	282.53	38.8	37.9	43.6	6.95	6.90	6.48
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	342.60	360.39	357.20	38.8	42.7	41.2	8.83	8.44	8.67
Fabricated Metal Products	353.73	354.21	382.98	39.0	39.4	39.0	9.07	8.99	9.82
Machinery, ex. Electrical	372.49	374.94	391.99	39.5	40.1	43.7	9.43	9.35	8.97
Electric & Electronic Equip.	449.59	426.01	382.36	42.9	41.2	39.5	10.48	10.34	9.68
Transportation Equipment	421.94	410.40	411.09	40.3	40.0	42.6	10.47	10.26	9.65
Nondurable Goods	465.19	439.85	412.67	42.6	41.3	40.3	10.92	10.65	10.24
Food & Kindred Products	270.43	258.26	251.67	37.3	37.0	38.6	7.25	6.98	6.52
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	196.99	188.03	155.73	40.7	45.2	36.3	4.84	4.16	4.29
Paper & Allied Products	534.25	522.01	492.63	43.4	42.2	43.1	12.31	12.37	11.43
Printing & Publishing	329.67	333.95	317.63	37.0	36.9	37.5	8.91	9.05	8.47
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	643.87	631.47	572.40	44.9	43.7	42.4	14.34	14.45	13.50
Petroleum & Coal Products	698.45	668.56	619.24	49.5	48.8	46.7	14.11	13.70	13.26
Petroleum Refining	716.72	686.98	638.82	49.6	49.0	46.8	14.45	14.02	13.65
MINING	551.10	540.96	515.52	48.3	48.3	45.5	11.41	11.20	11.33
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	462.00	456.11	451.49	40.0	39.8	39.5	11.55	11.46	11.43
BANKING	230.88	220.55	216.68	39.0	37.7	40.5	5.92	5.85	5.35

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 121,300 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 101,500 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY JANUARY 1984				REVISED DECEMBER 1983			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
Crowley (Acadia)	23,225	20,375	2,850	12.3	23,250	20,350	2,900	12.5
Oakdale (Allen)	6,300	4,925	1,375	22.0	6,325	5,000	1,325	20.9
Napoleonville (Assumption)	10,375	8,675	1,700	16.4	10,275	8,850	1,425	13.9
DeRidder (Beauregard)	11,650	10,150	1,500	12.8	11,725	10,300	1,425	12.1
Arcadia (Bienville)	6,950	6,275	675	9.8	7,000	6,325	675	9.6
Columbia (Caldwell)	4,550	4,000	550	12.4	4,675	4,100	575	12.4
Cameron (Cameron)	4,600	4,100	500	10.8	4,750	4,250	500	10.3
Jonesville (Catahoula)	6,150	5,400	750	12.2	6,150	5,475	675	11.0
Homer (Claiborne)	7,225	6,600	625	8.5	7,225	6,625	600	8.2
Ferriday (Concordia)	8,825	7,525	1,300	14.8	8,975	7,825	1,150	12.9
Mansfield (DeSoto)	10,900	9,525	1,375	12.6	11,025	9,950	1,075	9.9
Lake Providence (E.Carroll)	4,600	3,625	975	21.3	4,500	3,725	775	17.2
Clinton (East Feliciana)	7,525	6,825	700	9.3	7,625	6,925	700	9.1
Ville Platte (Evangeline)	13,575	11,625	1,950	14.4	13,675	11,700	1,975	14.5
Winnsboro (Franklin)	8,425	6,975	1,450	17.3	8,500	7,100	1,400	16.4
New Iberia (Iberia)	35,950	31,125	4,825	13.4	35,600	31,000	4,600	12.9
Plaquemine (Iberville)	14,650	13,000	1,650	11.3	14,850	13,200	1,650	11.1
Jonesboro (Jackson)	6,025	5,500	525	8.8	6,225	5,700	525	8.4
Jennings (Jefferson Davis)	12,575	10,625	1,950	15.5	12,800	10,800	2,000	15.7
Thibodaux (Lafourche)	37,650	33,250	4,400	11.7	37,975	33,725	4,250	11.2
Jena (LaSalle)	5,875	5,275	600	10.2	5,875	5,325	550	9.4
Ruston (Lincoln)	21,025	19,950	1,075	5.1	21,400	20,125	1,275	5.9
Tallulah (Madison)	5,075	4,175	900	17.7	4,975	4,275	700	13.8
Bastrop (Morehouse)	12,825	11,050	1,775	13.8	12,625	11,050	1,575	12.5
Natchitoches (Natchitoches)	16,900	15,225	1,675	9.9	17,225	15,625	1,600	9.2
Point-a-la-Hache(Plaqum.)	14,100	12,975	1,125	7.9	14,175	13,100	1,075	7.6
New Roads (Pointe Coupee)	12,350	10,925	1,425	11.5	12,625	11,200	1,425	11.3
Coushatta (Red River)	4,225	3,825	400	9.8	4,075	3,725	350	8.7
Rayville (Richland)	7,725	6,600	1,125	14.5	7,750	6,700	1,050	13.6
Many (Sabine)	7,850	7,125	725	9.3	8,025	7,175	850	10.6
Norco (St. Charles)	21,350	19,275	2,075	9.7	21,525	19,450	2,075	9.6
Greensburg (St. Helena)	4,100	3,700	400	9.9	4,250	3,850	400	9.7
Lutcher (St. James)	10,575	9,300	1,275	12.0	10,550	9,425	1,125	10.7
Reserve (St. John)	17,200	15,225	1,975	11.5	17,300	15,350	1,950	11.3
Opelousas (St. Landry)	33,850	27,925	5,925	17.5	34,125	28,350	5,775	16.9
St. Martinville (St. Martin)	18,875	16,125	2,750	14.6	19,325	16,650	2,675	13.8
Morgan City (St. Mary)	32,625	27,800	4,825	14.8	32,325	27,750	4,575	14.2
Hammond (Tangipahoa)	33,250	28,150	5,100	15.3	33,725	28,600	5,125	15.2
St. Joseph (Tensas)	2,800	2,325	475	17.0	2,850	2,475	375	13.6
Houma (Terrebonne)	44,900	39,750	5,150	11.5	45,325	40,125	5,200	11.5
Farmerville (Union)	7,525	6,625	900	11.9	7,600	6,750	850	11.1
Abbeville (Vermilion)	23,725	20,850	2,875	12.2	23,825	21,025	2,800	11.7
Leesville (Vernon)	11,975	10,400	1,575	13.1	12,300	10,750	1,550	12.6
Bogalusa (Washington)	14,100	11,950	2,150	15.2	14,175	12,050	2,125	15.0
Oak Grove (West Carroll)	4,100	3,175	925	22.7	4,000	3,225	775	19.2
St. Francisville (W.Felic.)	3,325	3,025	300	8.8	3,375	3,100	275	7.9
Winnfield (Winn)	5,450	4,775	675	12.3	5,550	4,850	700	12.7

Note: Labor Market Areas are designated by name of principal Town, but include all of parish in parenthesis.

Above data rounded to nearest 25 except LMA's and Statewide which are rounded to nearest 100. Subtotals may not add to totals due to rounding. Rates computed from unrounded data.

ALEXANDRIA AREA (1)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change From Dec. 1983	Net Change From Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	54.0	54.6	52.6	- 0.6	+ 1.4
MANUFACTURING	5.4	5.4	5.1	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	2.7	0	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	2.5	2.5	2.4	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	48.6	49.2	47.5	- 0.6	+ 1.1
Construction	3.2	3.5	3.0	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Trans., Comm., & Pub. Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.4	12.7	12.0	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Retail Trade	9.7	10.0	9.3	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.1	2.2	1.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	4.1	4.3	4.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Services & Mining	11.7	11.7	11.4	0	+ 0.3
Health Services	5.2	5.2	4.9	0	+ 0.3
Other Services & Mining	6.5	6.5	6.5	0	0
Government	15.9	15.9	15.8	0	+ 0.1
Federal	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
State	5.9	5.9	5.8	0	+ 0.1
Local	7.2	7.2	7.2	0	0

(1) Geographic coverage of data now published for this area differs from the standard definition. Data also includes Avoyelles Parish.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment declined in the Alexandria Labor Market Area in January to 54,000. This was a decline of 600 from the previous month, but an overall gain of 1,400 from this month a year ago. This months loss was in nonmanufacturing.

Manufacturing employment, unchanged since the previous month, has increased 300 from this month a year ago. The gain was in both durable and nondurable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing for January decreased by 600 since last month. The declines were in the construction and retail trade industries. These losses were seasonal due to the inclement weather and the ending of the holiday season. Compared to this month a year ago, employment in nonmanfacturing has increased by 1,100, with increases in each major segment except transportation, communication, and public utilities.

Total employment should be fairly constant during the next thirty days. The number of unemployed may increase slightly due to the inclement weather.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change From Dec. 1983	Net Change From Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	208.2	211.2	201.6	- 3.0	+ 6.6
MANUFACTURING	21.9	22.3	23.1	- 0.4	- 1.2
Durable Goods	3.9	3.9	4.0	0	- 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.3	0	+ 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.8	0.9	0.8	- 0.1	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	0.9	1.1	0	- 0.2
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.6	1.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	18.0	18.4	19.1	- 0.4	- 1.1
Food & Kindred Products	2.1	2.3	2.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	13.3	13.4	14.5	- 0.1	- 1.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.2	1.1	- 0.1	0
NONMANUFACTURING	186.3	188.9	178.5	- 2.6	+ 7.8
Mining	0.9	0.9	1.1	0	- 0.2
Construction	19.5	20.7	20.5	- 1.2	- 1.0
Transportation and Public Utilities	10.0	10.3	10.1	- 0.3	- 0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	50.1	51.2	46.4	- 1.1	+ 3.7
Wholesale Trade	11.5	11.4	11.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	38.6	39.8	35.4	- 1.2	+ 3.2
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	12.3	12.4	11.9	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Services	39.0	38.7	37.7	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
Government	54.5	54.7	50.8	- 0.2	+ 3.7

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$496.50	$498.74	$467.98	42.4	42.7	40.8	$11.71	$11.68	$11.47
Petro-Chemicals	682.51	659.12	591.59	47.2	45.3	42.9	14.46	14.55	13.79

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 11,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA was estimated at 208,200 during January, down 3,000 from December's revised estimate of 211,200 and up 6,600 over the total for last January. Manufacturing employment was down 400 and nonmanufacturing dropped 2,600 during the current period.

Employment in manufacturing totaled 21,900 in January, down 400 from the December revised estimate. Durable goods had no change; however, a drop in stone, clay and glass products due to less demand for structural clay products and concrete, gypsum, and plaster products was offset by an increased demand in iron and steel foundries. Nondurable goods were down due to a seasonal drop in sugar and confectionery products and less demand for industrial organic chemicals and industrial inorganic chemicals.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing at 186,300 during January was down 2,600 from December's revised estimate. The major loss was due to seasonal drops in retail trade and construction while other losses were due to reduction in trucking, local and long distance, radio and television broadcasting, water suppliers and sanitary services. Finance, insurance & real estate was down due to less activity in commercial and stock savings banks. Government was down due to reduction in state employment. Wholesale trade was up due to more business in hardware and plumbing and heating equipment and supplies and in machinery equipment, and supplies. Services were up due to more activity in advertising, services to dwellings and other buildings, automotive repair shops, hospitals, legal services, and job training and vocational rehabilitation services.

Total employment of the Baton Rouge LMA residents was estimated at 220,600 during January, down 1,500 from December's revised estimate of 222,100. Unemployment at 19,600 in January was down 900 from last month's revised estimate and down 3,900 from January of last year. January's unemployment rate at 8.2 percent is down from the revised 8.4 percent for last month. The unemployment rate for the state was 10.4 percent in January. The local civilian labor force totaled 240,200 in January, down 2,400 from December's total and up 10,400 over the total for last January.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's estimated 11,700 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $496.50 in January, down $2.24 from December's revised average. Average weekly hours were down 0.3 hours and average hourly earnings were up three cents. Less overtime worked contributed to these changes.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 2,158 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 466 applicants in jobs during December.

The consumer price index for December, 1983 for all urban consumers was 303.5 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 301.5 using base period 1967=100. The annual averages for 1983 were 298.4 and 297.4 respectively.

Unemployment and the unemployment rate is expected to drop some during the coming month due to seasonal changes.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change From Dec. 1983	Net Change From Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	95.7	96.3	90.5	- 0.6	+ 5.2
MANUFACTURING	5.2	5.1	4.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Durable Goods	3.1	3.0	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	1.9	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.2	1.3	1.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	90.5	91.2	86.4	- 0.7	+ 4.1
Mining	18.1	17.7	18.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
Construction	6.1	6.1	5.5	0	- 0.6
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	7.9	7.9	7.3	0	+ 0.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	24.0	24.5	22.9	- 0.5	+ 1.1
Wholesale Trade	7.5	7.7	6.8	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Retail Trade	16.5	16.8	16.1	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.9	3.3	2.6	- 0.4	+ 0.3
Food Stores	2.1	2.0	2.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	9.8	9.8	9.6	0	+ 0.2
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.7	3.8	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Services	20.3	20.1	18.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.2
Government	10.4	11.1	10.8	- 0.7	- 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette during January stood at 95,700, a decrease of 600 from last month and 5,200 more than January of last year. Most of the decrease of a month ago and the increase of a year ago was in the nonmanufacturing sector.

Nonmanufacturing was 90,500, a decrease of 700 from the previous month and an increase of 4,100 from the same period of time a year ago.

The wholesale and retail trade stood at 24,000, a decrease of 500 from the previous month. This decrease was due to the layoff of temporary help for the Christmas season.

Government showed a decrease of 700 from the previous month. This was due to a decrease of employment in state education. This number should increase next month since school is back in session.

Lafayette's unemployment rate should decrease slightly in the next few months. There are signs that things are beginning to pick up in the oilfield.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change From Dec. 1983	Net Change From Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	58.9	60.5	61.5	- 1.6	- 2.6
MANUFACTURING	9.2	9.4	10.0	- 0.2	- 0.8
Durable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.6	9.1	- 0.2	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Chemical & Pet Products	7.6	7.8	8.3	- 0.2	- 0.7
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	49.7	51.1	51.5	- 1.4	- 1.8
Mining	2.3	2.4	2.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Construction	4.8	5.5	6.7	- 0.7	- 1.9
Trans., Comm. & Pub. & Utilities	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.0	14.6	14.1	- 0.6	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.7	11.3	10.9	- 0.6	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.2	2.7	2.4	- 0.5	- 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.3	3.1	0	+ 0.2
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Services	10.9	10.9	10.7	0	+ 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Government	10.5	10.5	10.6	0	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The number of workers on nonagricultural payrolls in the Lake Charles area dropped sharply below the December level. Losses totalling 1,600 occurred in all major industry groups. The current worker total falls 2,600 below the year ago level.

Manufacturing employment currently estimated at 9,200 dropped 200 below the mid-December level and this was centered in chemicals and petroleum products. Eight hundred factory workers lost jobs during the twelve month period from January 1983.

The number of workers on nonmanufacturing payrolls declined by 1,400 from mid-December. Most of this decline occurred in construction and retail trade. The construction loss resulted from inclement weather and a lack of construction projects. The loss in retail trade resulted from the layoff of temporary employees hired for the Christmas shopping season.

Employmnent is not expected to increase during the next 30 to 60 days but unemployment ma[illegible]urn upward sharply.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change From Dec. 1983	Net Change From Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	49.8	51.0	51.4	- 1.2	- 1.6
MANUFACTURING	7.0	7.1	7.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.3	0.2	0.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.1	1.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.8	5.0	- 0.1	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.0	3.1	3.4	- 0.1	- 0.4
NONMANUFACTURING	42.8	43.9	44.3	- 1.1	- 1.5
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Construction	2.6	2.9	2.7	- 0.3	- 0.1
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.0	14.7	13.5	- 0.7	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.9	4.0	4.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	10.1	10.7	9.5	- 0.6	+ 0.6
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.6	3.2	2.8	- 0.6	- 0.2
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.8	2.8	2.6	0	+ 0.2
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	4.0	4.1	3.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Services	10.0	10.1	10.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.2	0	- 0.1
Government	9.0	8.9	10.7	+ 0.1	- 1.7

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment declined by 1,200 to an estimated 49,800 during mid-January.

Manufacturing was down by 100 workers. The loss was in non-durable goods.

Nonmanufacturing declined by 1,100 to an estimated 42,800. This decline was seasonal, marking the end of the holiday season and the continued adverse weather conditions. As expected the biggest decline, 700 was in wholesale and retail trade and was directly related to the end of the holiday season. Adverse weather was responsible for the 300 decline in construction. Services declined by 100. Finance, insurance and real estate also declined by 100. The only gain was in government, 100 workers.

Employment is expected to begin a gradual increase over the next sixty days. Unemployment, though still high, should decline slowly.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change From Dec. 1983	Net Change From Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	504.5	508.7	502.5	- 4.2	+ 2.0
MANUFACTURING	39.3	39.6	42.8	- 0.3	- 3.5
Durable Goods	22.9	22.9	25.7	0	- 2.8
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.6	2.6	2.4	0	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Machinery, Except Electrical	2.9	2.9	3.1	0	- 0.2
Transportation Equipment	12.4	12.4	14.5	0	- 2.1
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	7.7	7.6	10.4	+ 0.1	- 2.7
Other Durable Goods	1.3	1.3	2.0	0	- 0.7
Nondurable Goods	16.4	16.7	17.1	- 0.3	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	7.0	7.2	7.5	- 0.2	- 0.5
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.7	1.8	1.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	465.2	469.1	459.7	- 3.9	+ 5.5
Mining	18.3	18.5	19.4	- 0.2	- 1.1
Construction	31.7	32.0	29.0	- 0.3	+ 2.7
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	46.9	46.7	47.7	+ 0.2	- 0.8
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Water Transportation	16.4	16.1	16.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	128.7	131.8	127.2	- 3.1	+ 1.5
Wholesale Trade	34.4	34.7	35.2	- 0.3	- 0.8
Retail Trade	94.3	97.1	92.0	- 2.8	+ 2.3
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	31.7	31.7	31.2	0	+ 0.5
Services	122.6	122.8	121.0	- 0.2	+ 1.6
Government	85.3	85.6	84.2	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Federal	15.1	15.0	14.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State	21.1	21.2	22.1	- 0.1	- 1.0
Local	49.1	49.4	47.2	- 0.3	+ 1.9

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**
All MANUFACTURING	$369.89	$362.94	$367.84	39.1	38.9	40.6	$9.46	$9.33	$9.06
Durable Goods	382.98	392.18	402.90	39.2	40.1	42.1	9.77	9.78	9.57
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	343.60	351.05	358.27	41.1	41.3	42.1	8.36	8.50	8.51
Fabricated Metal Products	334.63	410.01	449.04	31.9	38.9	40.6	10.49	10.54	11.06
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	393.97	391.16	409.59	38.7	38.5	43.9	10.18	10.16	9.33
Nondurable Goods	351.78	322.15	310.18	39.0	37.2	38.2	9.02	8.66	8.12
Food & Kindred Products	302.86	263.87	266.26	38.0	36.7	39.8	7.97	7.19	6.69
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	132.42	143.67	118.25	28.6	31.3	27.5	4.63	4.59	4.30
Paper & Allied Products	388.58	402.81	311.20	47.1	46.3	40.0	8.25	8.70	7.78
Printing & Publishing	286.16	306.49	299.03	39.2	36.1	40.3	7.30	8.49	7.42
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	568.58	545.42	532.77	40.7	38.6	39.7	13.97	14.13	13.42

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 24,900 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans Labor Market Area in January decreased to 504,500, a level 4,200 below December. Normal seasonal downward adjustments in retail trade dominated changes. Manufacturing sustained the sharp downtrend exhibited since the early part of 1982, moving down to the lowest level in many years. Since January 1983, nonagricultural wage and salary employment gained 2,000 with an increase of 5,500 in nonmanufacturing offsetting a decrease of 3,500 in manufacturing.

Manufacturing employment in the New Orleans area totaled 39,300 in January, 300 less than last month. The durable goods sector held steady over the month. In the nondurable goods sector, decreases in food and kindred products were seasonal and apparel and other textile products exhibited minor scattered layoffs. Compared to January 1983, manufacturing payrolls have dropped 3,500 employees.

Nonmanufacturing moved down, mainly displaying a variety of typical seasonal decreases. Retail trade effected normal layoffs following the close of the holiday season. Wholesale trade eased down. Mining made adjustments necessitated by winter weather conditions. Construction reduced activity in each major segment. In services, private educational services made temporary employment cutbacks between semesters. Partly offsetting this downturn, the hotel-motel industry was boosted by the opening of a new hotel. In government, the minor decrease was mostly in educational services and short-term in nature. Finance, insurance, and real estate held steady. More favorably, water transportation added workers, reflecting a normal fluctuation in local port activity.

Area factory workers earned an average $369.89 a week in January, $6.95 over last months average. Average hourly pay was up $0.13 along with an increase in average weekly hours of 12 minutes. Average weekly earnings are up $2.05 from the average this time last year.

Estimated unemployment in January decreased to 47,000 down 1,000 from December. A reduction in the number of persons in the labor force following the holiday season was mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 8.9 percent of the labor force compared to 9.1 percent in December and 10.7 percent in January of last year. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 13,529. Approximately 44.0 percent of the claimants were non-white; about 29.0 percent were female.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is predicted to show an overall gain. Highlighting all changes will be an expected increase in work involving preparations for the opening of the 1984 World's Fair. Construction activity will be partly dependent on weather conditions. Mining will hopefully be able to begin a seasonal expansion. Unemployment will probably decrease as employment increases.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1984*	Dec. 1983**	Jan. 1983**	Net Change From Dec. 1983	Net Change From Jan. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	146.6	148.9	144.0	- 2.3	+ 2.6
MANUFACTURING	24.0	24.0	22.6	0	+ 1.4
Durable Goods	18.2	18.2	16.9	0	+ 1.3
Lumber and Wood Products	1.5	1.5	1.3	0	+ 0.2
Metals and Machinery	10.9	10.9	11.4	0	- 0.5
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.9	3.9	3.5	0	+ 0.4
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	7.0	7.0	7.9	0	- 0.9
Other Durable Goods	5.8	5.8	4.2	0	+ 1.6
Nondurable Good	5.8	5.8	5.7	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	122.6	124.9	121.4	- 2.3	+ 1.2
Mining	6.5	6.5	6.4	0	+ 0.1
Construction	8.6	9.2	8.1	- 0.6	+ 0.5
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	9.6	9.5	9.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Wholesale and Retail Trade	33.3	34.5	33.9	- 1.2	- 0.6
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.2	9.1	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	24.2	25.3	24.8	- 1.1	- 0.6
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	8.0	8.0	7.8	0	+ 0.2
Services	30.5	30.9	29.9	- 0.4	+ 0.6
Government	26.1	26.3	26.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**	Jan. '84*	Dec. '83**	Jan. '83**
All MANUFACTURING	$406.71	$407.54	$360.08	41.8	41.0	39.7	$9.73	$9.94	$9.07
Lumber and Wood Products	234.05	192.85	207.38	42.4	35.0	39.5	5.52	5.51	5.25
Metals and Machinery	411.17	412.16	375.05	43.1	42.1	40.9	9.54	9.79	9.17
Food and Kindred Products	236.62	197.49	203.63	38.6	31.7	35.6	6.13	6.23	5.72
Printing and Publishing	243.07	236.04	210.65	28.1	30.3	26.2	8.65	7.79	8.04
Petroleum and Coal Products	593.62	619.13	505.91	47.3	50.5	46.8	12.55	12.26	10.81

* Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 17,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Shreveport area is 146,600. This total is 2,300 less than the revised December estimate of 148,900 and is 2,600 more than the January 1983 figure.

Employment in manufacturing, at 24,000, remains unchanged from the previous month, but indicates a 1,400 increase from January 1983.

Employment losses during the past month occurred in nonmanufacturing. The most significant drop was in trade, some 1,200 less than during the December peak sales period. Construction employment dropped to 8,600, showing a decline of 600 during the past month, but up 500 from one year ago. A decline in services and government employment accounts for additional losses in nonmanufacturing.

The average weekly earnings of an estimated 17,500 production workers in the Shreveport area is $406.71, compared with $407.54 for last month and $360.08 for January 1983. The average weekly hours increased from 41.0 last month to 41.8, while the average weekly earnings fell slightly from $9.94 last month to $9.73.

The current civilian labor force in the Shreveport area is 168,100, including 152,100 employed and 16,000 unemployed. The unemployment rate is 9.5 percent, down from 9.7 percent for last month and 12.2 percent for January 1983.

The outlook is for the economy of this area to remain mostly unchanged through the first quarter. Construction activity should increase with improved weather conditions and if the prediction of slightly lower interest rates occur. Small increases in total employment and a gradual lowering of unemployment are expected.